



On the Beat

Community Oriented Policing Services

SUMMER - 1998, NO. 11

www.usdoj.gov/cops/



COPS Passes 75,000 Officer Milestone

At a recent White House Ceremony, President Clinton announced that more than 75,000 community policing officers have been funded under the COPS program. Vice President Gore, Attorney General Reno, COPS Director Joe Brann, and community policing advocates from across the nation joined the President to mark the milestone.

The Rose Garden grant announcement – \$115 million in grants to fund 1,748 officers in over 550 communities – put the anti-crime initiative over three-quarters of the way toward meeting the President's goal of 100,000 additional officers.

In his remarks, the President stressed the importance of the program in the nation's crime rate dropping to a 25 year low.

"Community policing," the President said, "embodies the concept of working together – to get more police out of the station houses, out from behind the desks, onto the streets, working with people."

By reaching 75,000 officers in only four years, the COPS program is ahead of schedule and under budget. The program is on track to fulfill its mandate of funding 100,000 community policing officers by the end of fiscal year 2000.

Since the program was enacted in 1994, crime has dropped sharply in the United States. The Federal Bureau of Investigation recently reported that overall crime in 1997 was down for the sixth consecutive year. ■

Distressed Neighborhoods Pilot Initiative Launched in 18 Cities Nationwide

Eighteen cities with neighborhoods experiencing high crime rates and sagging economies are receiving assistance to fight crime through the new COPS Distressed Neighborhoods Pilot Project.

Some 738 community policing officers will be deployed through grants totaling nearly \$106 million under the program. The pilot cities were selected following a stringent analysis of crime statistics as well as demographic and economic data.

According to COPS Deputy Director John Hart, this experimental program is targeting communities that need extra assistance in battling crime and face budgetary hurdles in contributing the local cash match to hire new

Continued on page 2



Director's Column

PLANNING FOR COMMUNITY POLICING IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Like thousands of others across the nation, your law enforcement agency has formed a strong partnership with us at the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. Our partnership is advancing community policing, putting more officers on the streets, adding new tools to your crime-fighting arsenal, and most importantly, helping slash crime rates while improving the quality of life in America's neighborhoods.



Joseph E. Brann

We are at a critical stage in our partnership. Federal funding for additional officers under our main hiring programs (Universal Hiring Program, COPS AHEAD, FAST, MORE '95, MORE '96, and MORE '98) concludes after three years. However, your commitment to retain these officers – as well as our commitment to implement the retention component of our agreement – continues.

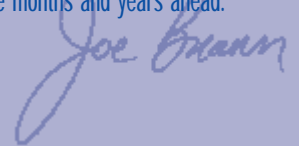
Most law enforcement agencies planned for the retention of COPS-funded positions from the start. Some are securing these positions through long range budget planning in concert with local fiscal authorities and policymakers, sound fiscal management, and innovative revenue-generating measures.

Some have not been as successful in their planning efforts. That's why COPS is committed to assisting your agency to remain in compliance. This month we are stepping up our efforts with a new "Retention Tool Kit" to assist you in retaining COPS-funded officers.

As a former police chief, I learned the value of seeking the advice of my peers on how to tackle tough problems. That is why we are turning to chiefs, sheriffs, mayors, and city managers to share their successful approaches to retaining officers hired under COPS grants. Their examples and recommendations will be included in our tool kit.

This concise, easy-to-understand document is designed to be helpful in your efforts to plan and implement your strategy for retaining COPS-funded officers. It will be available from the COPS office (800-421-6770) later this summer, and at our web site: www.usdoj.gov/cops.

The COPS program is designed to be a true collaborative effort between our office and your agency. We are pleased with its success. I hope this new effort to help your community fulfill its obligation and assume the full cost of salaries and benefits of your COPS officers will be helpful in the months and years ahead.



Distressed Neighborhoods Pilot Initiative Launched in 18 Cities Nationwide

Continued from page 1

officers. In this new effort, COPS picks up the full tab for entry-level salaries and benefits for three years. The usual 25 percent local match requirement is waived. All other grant requirements, including the retention of positions when federal funding ends, will apply. Each jurisdiction will put their COPS grants to work in different ways. For example:

- In Camden, N.J., where 34.1 percent of its families live below the federal poverty level, the \$891,000 grant will be used to add five officers to the city's "Renaissance Teams" that address crime and quality of life issues throughout troubled neighborhoods;
- Chicago, Ill. will increase the effectiveness of its Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy (CAPS) with \$23 million in new grants. Some 150 new officers will focus on neighborhoods with high drug trafficking; and
- What Police Chief Marvin Minor has called "open air drug markets" in Greenville, Miss. will be targeted by six officers funded by a \$494,920 grant.

Other cities receiving Distressed Neighborhood Initiative grants include:

Baltimore, Md. (100 officers, \$10.8 million)
Bessemer, Ala. (12 officers, \$1.2 million)
Birmingham, Ala. (25 officers, \$2.8 million)
Buffalo, N.Y. (20 officers, \$2.8 million)
Cleveland, Ohio (100 officers, \$15 million)

El Paso, Tex. (12 officers, \$1.4 million)
Flint, Mich. (12 officers, \$877,122)
Fort Pierce, Fla. (3 officers, \$318,000)
Fresno, Calif. (75 officers, \$13.7 million)
Hartford, Conn. (12 officers, \$1.5 million)

McAllen, Tex. (20 officers, \$2.2 million)
Miami, Fla. (168 officers, \$24.2 million)
Muskegon, Mich. (5 officers, \$393,435)
San Bernardino, Calif. (8 officers, \$1.6 million).



COPS Helps Schools Tackle Crime

When students go back to class next month, COPS-funded police officers will be joining them in schools across the nation.

Recent tragedies in Richmond, Va., Jonesboro, Ark., and Pearl, Miss. have brought school violence to the forefront of the national agenda. As President Clinton recently noted in honoring COPS-funded Officer Ron Brown, who was involved in the Richmond incident, "community police are making children safe in our neighborhoods and in our schools."

In the fall, COPS will announce the recipients of \$12 million in grants for its School-Based Partnership Program. This innovative program will provide grants to law enforcement agencies and partnering community groups (including schools) to address persistent crime problems in and around primary and secondary schools.

This month, COPS kicks off a new effort to urge communities and educators to join together in applying for school resource officer grants under the COPS Universal Hiring Program (UHP).

"Dozens of jurisdictions across the nation already have hired police through COPS grants programs but many still don't realize that the



"I think parents and kids absolutely must feel safe in school in order to learn," says Elaine Berman of the Denver School Board. "I don't think principals and teachers should be spending time on safety issues."

"School resource officers are the best example of community policing you can find because we're responsible for a community," says Curtis Lavarello, president of the 5,000-member National Association of School Resource Officers. Adds Ronald Stephens, director of the National School Safety Center in Malibu, Calif. "As school violence transitioned from fist fights to gunfights and fire drills to crisis drills, there's a need to have a higher level of professionalism on campus."

"You can't just take a janitor and give him a gun," he notes. "They need to be trained to deal with young people and have an understanding of the law."



resources we have can be used for schools as well," says COPS Deputy Director Ben Tucker. "We are urging policing agencies and the education community to form more collaborative partnerships and apply for UHP grants that will increase the number of sworn personnel in our schools."

Denver (Colo.) Public Schools recently hired 12 uniformed officers to be stationed full-time in the city's high schools with the help of a COPS grant. According to the *Rocky Mountain News*, they will patrol halls, speak to classes, and work to prevent crime in and around schools. They also hope to recruit future police professionals and act as role models while befriending and counseling youngsters.



Senior Police Officer Richard DeJoode and drug dog Oby discuss drugs and search procedures with students at Garton Elementary School in Des Moines, Iowa.

Staff Profile — Response to COPS MORE '98 Grants "Overwhelming"

With more than 3,000 applications requesting more than \$767 million, COPS MORE '98 (Making Officer Redeployment Effective) is shattering all records as the most popular program announcement ever made by the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS).

Christina Galano and Nancy Leach, who head the COPS MORE team reviewing the applications, say they're "overwhelmed" by the record number of quality applications they've received. With requests far exceeding the \$243 million budget for the program, they say the screening and reviewing process is more competitive than ever.

Says Galano: "It confirms what we are hearing from the field: that law enforcement agencies across the nation want to deploy more officers to our streets to fight crime and employ technology that will help them do their jobs more effectively."

According to Galano, a three-year COPS veteran with a Masters in Public Administration from American University, 1,800 applications for \$380 million were received for the previous program, COPS MORE '96. That number represents a 60 percent increase in applications, with dollar requests jumping by 50 percent. (Statutory restrictions allow no more than 20 percent of the COPS budget to be dedicated to the COPS MORE program each fiscal year.)

"Because of the intense competition, we've had to take a fine-tooth comb to each application," says Leach, who holds a M.S. in Justice from American University. "For COPS MORE and indeed every program COPS has, it's critical that applicants fill out information completely – to really take the time

to check every box correctly and fill out every question fully."

COPS MORE grants are used to purchase equipment and state-of-the-art technology. Proposals received include funding for mobile data computers, mapping software, and computer-aided dispatch systems. In addition, COPS MORE grants may be used to hire non-sworn staff – including police or community service officers, civilian booking clerks, dispatchers, jailers, and other support personnel – to fulfill tasks that sworn personnel currently perform, allowing those officers to be out in the community fighting crime.

The grants cover up to 75 percent of the total cost of technology, equipment, or civilian salaries for one year. Grant recipients contribute a 25 percent cash match. State, local, and other public law enforcement agencies are eligible for the grants. The first round of grant award recipients will be announced in September.



The COPS MORE team (from left, Nancy Leach, Darren Neely, and Christina Galano) received more than three times as many grant applications than COPS can fund. The first grant awards will be announced in September.

\$5.1 Million Methamphetamine Initiative Targets Five Cities

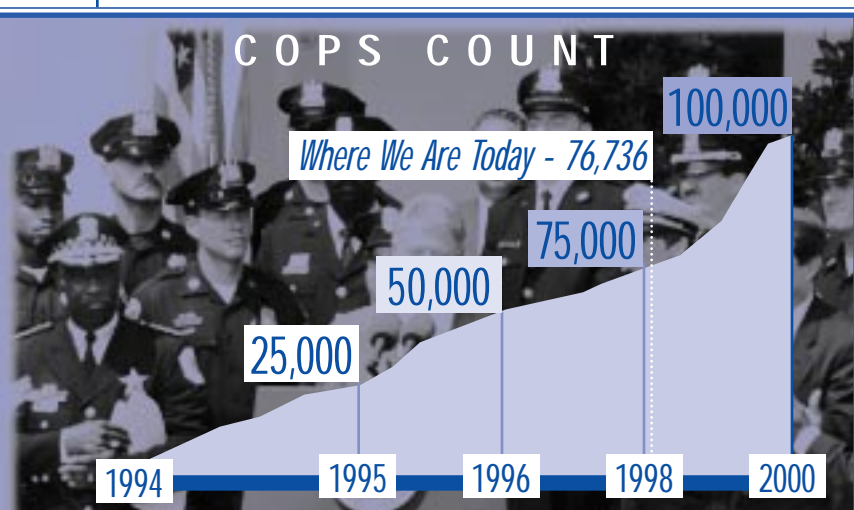
Use of methamphetamines – commonly called "meth," "crank," or "speed" – is rising sharply across the United States. Developed in clandestine laboratories often located in remote areas, meth (known on the street as "the poor man's cocaine") is cheap and addictive.

And as law enforcement officials know all too well, it isn't just the drug that is dangerous. Meth labs themselves pose both acute and chronic health risks to law enforcement officers that seize meth-producing facilities as well as to those that live nearby.

For Fiscal Year 1998, Congress appropriated \$34 million to fight the escalating meth problem. With those funds, COPS is facilitating the funding of a variety of enforcement programs to areas with the greatest need of assistance in eradicating meth production and distribution.

President Clinton and Attorney General Janet Reno recently announced a new \$5.1 million grant program administered by Office of Community

Continued on page 5



Questions and Answers — Violating COPS Grants Agreements

By Charlotte Grzebien, Associate General Counsel, COPS Legal Division

Q What penalties does the COPS Office impose if a grantee violates its COPS grant requirements?

A If the COPS Office determines that a grantee has violated a grant requirement after a thorough review, we try to develop a voluntary compliance remedy in cooperation with the grantee.

For example, one COPS grantee which violated the nonsupplanting requirement agreed to return in excess of \$300,000 in grant funds to the COPS Office. Another grantee which violated the same requirement, however, chose to remedy the violation by hiring additional officers with local funds to return its sworn force to the required level.

In some cases the COPS Office is required to suspend or terminate grant funding if a grantee fails to voluntarily cooperate with developing a remedy. Grantees are encouraged to take timely and positive steps to rectify grant violations in cooperation with the COPS Office to prevent the suspension or termination of their grant funds

Continued from page 4

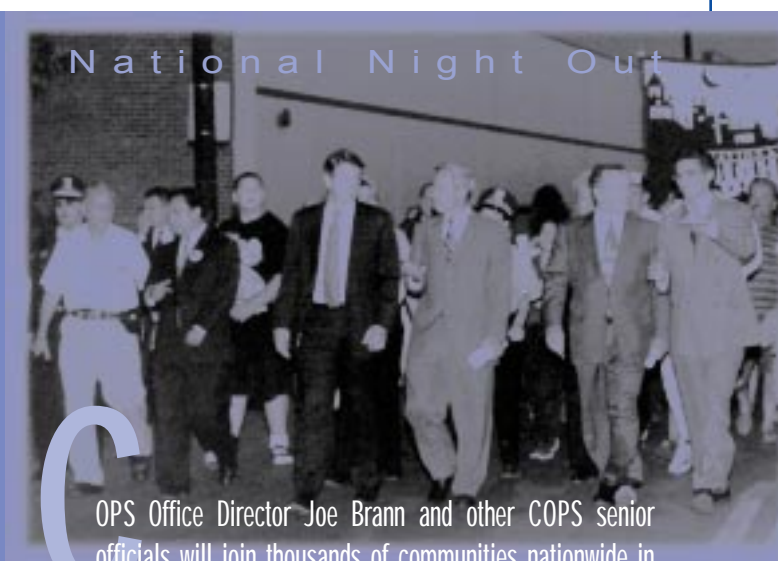
Oriented Policing Services to combat the spread of meth in six cities (Phoenix, Ariz.; Salt Lake City, Ut.; Oklahoma City, Okla.; Dallas, Tex.; Little Rock, Ark.; and Minneapolis, Minn.).

"Meth manufacturing and usage present unique law enforcement challenges to communities of all sizes," says COPS Office Director Joe Brann. "These grants will provide an opportunity for local law enforcement agencies to work closely with state and federal public safety agencies to develop comprehensive responses to the spread of methamphetamines. It is our hope that the strategies these communities develop will serve as models for the many others who are seeking solutions to this serious drug problem."

This initiative will provide innovative community policing grants to a limited number of law enforcement agencies in jurisdictions with large numbers of meth lab seizures, frequently reported deaths attributed to meth abuse, high percentages of arrestees testing positive for meth, and other factors. COPS Methamphetamine Initiative funds will be used to support a variety of enforcement, intervention, and prevention efforts. ■

Q How does the COPS Office find out that a grantee may be violating its COPS grant requirements?

A Site visits by COPS grant monitors, newspaper articles, written complaints, and federal, state, or local audits all are ways that COPS discovers grant requirement violations. The COPS Office thoroughly evaluates all allegations independently before reaching the conclusion that a grantee has violated its COPS grant requirements.



COPS Office Director Joe Brann and other COPS senior officials will join thousands of communities nationwide in what is expected to be the largest-ever celebration of "National Night Out" on August 4, 1998.

Sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch, the event is designed to send a message to criminals that neighborhoods and police are fighting crime together. Activities include front porch vigils, flashlight walks, block parties, and meetings with local law enforcement officials.

More than 30 million residents from 9,250 communities will participate in this year's event. Once again, COPS staffers will join their neighbors at sites across the country. Sites on the west coast, New England, and Texas are among those that COPS staff will attend.

What Works — A compendium of community policing ideas from across the nation

Postal carriers are getting the line on criminals — the phone line, that is. According to *The Star-Ledger*, the Maplewood, N.J. Police Department is using a grant to arm 30 local mail carriers with cell phones that dial 911 — and only that number. Dubbed “Postal Phone-Eye Network,” the program will give the postal workers the ability to instantly call law enforcement officials when they see a crime. “There have been times when I wanted to call the cops but people aren’t home and by the time you find a phone, the suspicious person is gone,” says mail carrier Wayne Boutillier. His supervisor, Postmaster Jeff Gannon, notes that “carriers are at every house every day. They know the people, they know the cars.”

The program complements the Maplewood Police Department’s “Eyes on the Neighborhood” program it launched with the township’s refuse collector, Mountain Disposal Co. In this effort, sanitation workers use two-way radios to alert headquarters or a company dispatcher about everything from suspicious cars to broken windows to doors that are ajar.

Contact: Director Gizzo, Maplewood Police Department, 973-762-3400.



Behind its magnificent oak-lined avenues and small town charm, Aiken, S.C. is grappling with serious problems including the most reported cases of child abuse and neglect in the state. To halt the number of what Public Solicitor Barbara Morgan calls “toxic childhoods,” law enforcement officials are teaming up with social

services to launch a series of community policing initiatives. “COPS and Moms” involves police officers to identify pregnant women in the community and encourage them to seek prenatal care by providing information on local services. Local officials say the direct result of the intense collaborative effort between the hospital, police force, and public and private organizations is resulting in a 40 percent drop in the infant mortality rate. Based on this program, Aiken Police also have begun the IMPACT program for youth. Police officials are visiting students at home each week to check on homework and deal with other issues. Students also join police at a homework help center twice a week and participate in biweekly events.

Contact: Lolita Ashley, Aiken Police Department, 803-642-7686.

What would summer be without a corner lemonade stand? In Naples, Fla., it’s the Sheriff’s Office and the Golden Gate Civic Association — not kids — that are running the stand. With the motto of “When your neighborhood has some lemons, make lemonade,” the corner stands provide police and neighborhood activists the chance to keep an eye out for crime and listen to neighbors. The lemonade stand sends a direct visual message to criminals that there is an active anti-crime program in the neighborhood and provides the police with a chance to hear community concerns.

Contact: Lt. Doug Caperton, Community Oriented Policing Services Coordinator, Collier County Sheriff’s Office, 941-793-9200.

In Rome, N.Y., the “COPS and JOCKS” program is uniting police with the town’s youth. Police are participating in a variety of sports activities, volunteering as coaches and officials to build bonds with children of all ages. The program, say the police, helps steer at-risk children in the right direction. Activities typically take place at the local Salvation Army gym. The next step is a tutoring program at the Salvation Army’s Community Learning Center.

Contact: Sgt. Stevens, Rome Police Department, 315-339-7780.

Prevention is the best medicine in St. Joseph, Mo. The city’s police department has begun leaving reminder cards for businesses and residents when they see something that could be



done to prevent crime. Notes are left on a residence or business door. Pat Dillion, owner of Dillion Co., received a card suggesting he leave a light over his cash register at night. “It made us feel better to know they (police officers) stopped by.”

Contact: Mike Hirter, St. Joseph Police Department, 816-271-4881.

Campus police at the Southern University New Orleans are extending reach beyond campus. Chief Bruce Smith and justice student Miranda McGee teamed up to win a COPS grant for a program to cut crime around the school. Included in the department’s recent activities have been an auto-theft prevention seminar, a disaster readiness program, a Day Out Against Crime, and adoption of local families to receive food, clothing, and toys on holidays. They’ve also sponsored athletic events between the Levee Board Police and SUNO police to bring the two law enforcement groups closer together with the community to fight crime.

Contact: SUNO Chief Bruce Smith at 504-286-5290.



COPS Grant a Big Deal in a Little Town

Crime doesn't just occur in big cities. And COPS grants don't just go to large metropolitan police forces. Just ask town officials in rural Cameron, N.C., population 238, which now has the first police officer in its 123-year history thanks to a COPS grant.

The "Dewberry Capital of the World," and home to dozens of antique stores that specialize in rocking chairs and Depression glass, recently received a \$65,088 COPS grant to have a full-time officer.

"It was a great thing for COPS to consider such a small town," says Chief Carroll Arden Adams, who is housed in the one-room town hall, a tiny, colonial-style brick building. "This is a great step for the town of Cameron, one that was long overdue."

Located off U.S. Route One about 60 miles south of Raleigh, Cameron was once a busy community. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, five trains stopped daily, bringing in goods for the community and taking lumber and pitch harvested from the area's pine forests. When the forests were depleted, the townspeople planted hundreds of acres of dewberry, a seedy cousin of the blackberry. Eventually the trains stopped coming and the town lost most of its population.

The resurgence in antique shops has put Cameron back on the map and, along with the expansion of local highways, also is resulting in an uptick in the crime rate. Aside from a rise in traffic violations, drug-related crime also is on the increase, according to the *Raleigh News and Observer*. This led town fathers to apply for the COPS grant. Mayor Isabel Thomas says she's pleased the town has its first police officer. "We don't know what kind of patrol schedule he's going to

work," the mayor jokes. "But our town hall is only open on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, so I guess on Tuesdays and Thursdays, you can do whatever you want!"



R.V. Hight

Cameron, N.C. is one of hundreds of communities with populations under 50,000 for which COPS has designed its Small Community Grant Program.

Later this month, COPS will announce approximately \$15 million in grants to help small communities retain the officers they've hired under the COPS Phase 1, FAST, or UHP programs.

"While small towns may have increased the size of their force by one or two new police officers thanks to COPS grants, this increase may translate into a 25 to 50 percent increase in the overall police force in some communities," explains grant advisor Tim Harding. "Due to the limited tax base in most of these communities, we've designed a program to help communities continue to afford to keep community policing at work in their towns."

COPS devised the Small Communities Grant Program to help towns and villages retain their officers and continue the benefits of community policing. Grant awards are expected to be announced in late August.

Two New Veteran Law Officials Join COPS

Gil Kerlikowske, a national leader in the field of community policing, has been named Deputy Director for Support Services for the COPS Office. Kerlikowske began his law enforcement career with the St. Petersburg, Fla. Police Department in 1972, serving in the Department's Internal Affairs, Vice and Narcotics, and Field Training divisions before becoming Commanding Officer of the Criminal Investigation Division. In 1987, Kerlikowske was named Chief of Police of the Port St. Lucie (Fla.) Police Department and served there until 1994 when he was named Police Commissioner in Buffalo, N.Y.

In 1996, he was elected President of the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF), a nationally recognized policing organization that serves as a clearinghouse on community policing issues. At the COPS Office, Mr. Kerlikowske will have responsibility for directing the activities of the COPS Monitoring Division; the Program, Policy, Support and Evaluation Division; and the U.S. Department of Justice Response Center.

Dave Walchak joins COPS as Senior Police Advisor to the Director. He previously served as Chief of Police in Concord, N.H., Director of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy, Law Enforcement Director for the Maine Municipal Association, and Assistant Police Training Supervisor for the State of Minnesota's Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. He began his career as a patrol officer in the La Crosse, Wisc. Police Department. Walchak serves as an advisor on policy development, intergovernmental activities, and represents COPS at conferences and other events.

COPS Calendar

| | | | |
|-------------------|--|-------------------|--|
| August 4 | <i>National Night Out</i> — Annual crime event with police & community groups nationwide. Contact: 800-NITEOUT. | September 15 — 19 | <i>Victim Offender Mediation Association Conference</i> — 15th annual international conference & training institute. Includes seminars to teach offenders about victims needs & how victim offender mediation is effective in reducing crime. Sponsor: VOMA. Site: Tucson, AZ. Contact: VOMA 503-281-5085. |
| August 6 — 8 | <i>Community Mobilization & Community Based Response to Problem Issues</i> — Discussion & training conference. Sponsor: Oklahoma RCPI. Site: Oklahoma City, OK. Contact: Debra Hoffmaster 202-616-9581. | September 22 — 25 | <i>Community Policing: Focusing on Your Mission</i> — Issue in changing community policing strategies. Sponsor: Portland Bureau of Police. Site: Portland, OR. Contact: Portland Bureau of Police 503-823-0955. |
| August 7 | <i>Team Building for Community Policing Partnerships</i> — Discussion & learning conference. Sponsor: Georgia RCPI. Site: Peachtree, GA. Contact: KSU Continuing Education 770-423-6765. | September 25 | <i>Team Building for Community Policing Partnerships</i> — Discussion & strategies for building collaborative partnerships for community policing. Sponsor: Georgia RCPI. Site: St. Simon's Island, Ga. Contact: KSU 770-423-6765. |
| August 11 — 14 | <i>Beyond the Rhetoric: Facing the Challenges of Community Policing</i> — COPS & City of Chicago national conference gathering 600 leading community policing strategists to learn new ideas to move community policing into the next century. Sponsor: Chicago Police Department. Site: Chicago, IL. Contact: Chicago Police Department 312-747-6208. | | |
| August 18 — 21 | <i>HAPCOA Annual Training Conference</i> . Sponsor: Hispanic American Command Officers Association. Site: Miami Beach, FL. Contact: HAPCOA 408-277-4212. | | |
| August 25 — 27 | <i>Arizona: Where Do We Go From Here?</i> — Community policing conference. Sponsor: COPS Regional Community Policing Institute. Site: Phoenix, AZ. Contact: Lynn Babcock 602-223-2514. | | |
| September 9 — 11 | <i>National Center for Small Communities Annual Conference</i> — Features community policing discussion. Sponsor: NCSC, National Association of Towns & Townships. Site: Washington, DC Contact: NCSC 202-624-3550. | | |
| September 13 — 16 | <i>East Coast Conference on Community Policing</i> — More than 250 law enforcement personnel expected to trade ideas & strategies on community policing. Sponsor: Baltimore County Police. Site: Williamsburg, VA. Contact: Baltimore County Police 410-887-2214. | | |

ON THE BEAT Summer • 1998 No. 11

For more information or to receive a free copy of this newsletter, write to COPS Office,
Attn: On The Beat
1100 Vermont Avenue, Washington, DC 20530, or visit our Website at
www.usdoj.gov/cops/webpubs.htm

You can also call the US Department of Justice
Response Center at 1-800-421-6770.
Within the Washington area, call 202-307-1480.



OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES (COPS)
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
1100 VERMONT AVENUE
WASHINGTON, DC 20530